



News Release

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FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT 10 ISSUED PERMIT TO DO BOISE RIVER CHANNEL MAINTENANCE

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Flood Control District 10 has been issued a permit to start channel maintenance work shortly after New Years along 15 miles of the Boise River's north and south channels along Eagle Island, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

Work is set to begin about January 5. The permit gives the district 30 days in which to complete its channel maintenance work.

The permit allows the District to reduce the chances of high water flooding and bank erosion by taking out downed trees and debris in the channel that can or could block river flows. The permit also allows the District under stringent conditions to remove Cottonwood and Willow trees that are leaning into the river and in danger of falling into the channel.

The IDWR Stream Channel Protection program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers both approved the permit. The District last did flood control maintenance work in the river in 2001. Work is expected to begin shortly after Christmas and could last up to a month.

Trees and brush in the river channels can become dams during times of high water forcing the river over its banks or leading to dangerous channel erosion. Also, trees and brush piles in the river channel can pose a threat to people who float the river.

The trees and brush removed from the channel will be stacked in such a way as to create woody brush piles for wildlife habitat along the river.

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The District has indicated it will begin the south channel at the Linder Road Bridge and move downstream to where the North and South channels meet. Work would then proceed upstream on the North Channel to the head of Eagle Island, then downstream on the South Channel to the Linder Road Bridge.

Other debris such as old tires will also be removed from the river channels during the work. Operations will require a track-mounted backhoe to physically enter and operate in the riverbed. But in-stream activities will be held to an absolute minimum and done under strict limitations to protect the integrity of the channel and the stream banks, IDWR officials said.

For more information contact Flood Control District 10 representative Steve Sweet with Quadrant Consulting at 342-0091.